[4th February 1925

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That is a matter on which it is impossible to give an answer. As far as I know, the post is not vacant."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether the present manager of the office of Commissioner of Labour has not the real interests of the depressed classes ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no reason to believe so."

Emigration.

Accommodation in S.S. " Teesta " carrying emigrants to the Federated Malay States.

* 42 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether S.S. *Teesta* which carried emigrants to the Federated Malay States on 20th November 1924 is a very old ship having no sufficient latrine accommodation or a sanitary cooking place and with a damp floor ;

(b) whether it was unfit to carry human traffic ; and

(c) whether Mr. Paddison went to the wharf to inspect the emigrants but failed to inspect the accommodation in the steamer ?

A.—(a) The Government have no information as to whether the *Teesta* is an old ship. They understand that it has sufficient latrine accommodation, that the cooking places are clean and that the floor is not damp.

(b) No.

(c) Mr. Paddison examined the emigrants, but did not inspect the ship as he had already seen it.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer given in clause (a), may I ask the hon. the Home Member to be good enough to say how he came to understand that the ship has sufficient latrine accommodation, etc. ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government came to understand it from a report received from one of the officers whose duty it was to inspect the ship."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I only want to know who was it that inspected the ship and whether he was an officer of this Government."

Mr. G. F. PADDISON :—" I went and inspected the ship."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then the ship was allowed to go in this unfit condition in spite of Mr. Paddison's inspection. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The hon. Member must ask only Mr. Paddison."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" That is asking me to appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" On a point of order, Sir. May I ask my hon. Friend who is Philip drunk and who is Philip sober ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Mr. Paddison is Philip drunk and Mr. Paddison is also Philip sober."

4th February 1925]

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I ask my hon. Friend to specify what he means by suggesting that the ship was unfit to carry emigrants? There is no specific allegation but merely a suggestion that the ship was in bad order. The mere fact that a question is asked does not in itself amount to an allegation that anything was wrong."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, the answer to my question is 'they understand that it has sufficient latrine accommodation, that the cooking places are clean and that the floor is not damp'. My supplementary question was how they came to understand it. The answer was that Mr. Paddison went and inspected the emigrants but did not inspect the ship. I am asking whether Mr. Reilly, the Collector of Madras, who already inspected the ship and allowed it to go in that condition, made any independent enquiries to satisfy himself that the ship was in a fit condition."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am now able to throw some light on the matter. I said I was not quite sure who the officer was. As a matter of fact the officer whose inspection has been referred to is not Mr. Paddison but the Protector of Emigrants on whose specific report this answer is framed. He says:—'During my inspection I have always found the latrine clean, etc. There is separate latrine accommodation for males and females.'"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What is the date of that report? I should like to know whether it was after this question was sent in."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The middle of December last year."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (c) of this question, when did Mr. Paddison last see this ship?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I understand that it was in May or June last year."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" This ship sailed on 20th November 1924. I am asking merely why for four or five months he did not inspect the ship which carried emigrants and whether it was not one of his duties."

Mr. G. F. PADDISON :—" It was not as my duty that I went down to inspect the ship."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am sure we are all acquainted with the duties of Mr. Paddison, and I do suggest that it was his duty to have inspected the ship, and he neglected it."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I point out, Sir, that the duty which Mr. Paddison was performing was not his duty. It was the duty of the Collector of Madras who happened to be ill. Mr. Paddison spared what time he could and went down to inspect the ship. It is not fair to say that he was neglecting his duty."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am sure the hon. the Home Member realizes what he means when he says that Mr. Paddison did not inspect the ship."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I understand that the main object of inspection on each occasion is with reference to the number of passengers carried. That is a matter which may be done on shore. As for the inspection with reference to structural details, the provision of latrines, etc., once that is done it should hardly be necessary to repeat the

inspection unless some change in the arrangement has occurred. The officer whose report we have has stated that the cooking places were clean and the floors dry."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" It might have gone damp again."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" And it would dry again."

Jails.

The imprisonment of Mr. Neelakanta Brahmachari.

* 43 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the jail to which Mr. Neelakanta Brahmachari, referred to in the *Swarajya* dated 15th December 1924, page 3, was first sent after conviction ;

(*b*) the transfers made hitherto and the period of detention in each jail ;

(*c*) the reasons for transfers, if any ;

(*d*) the latest transfer effected and from what place to what place ;

(*e*) the jail in which the prisoner is confined at present ;

(*f*) the latest report the Government received about him from the jail authorities ;

(*g*) whether the Government will ascertain immediately and report about the present state of the prisoner's health, containing particulars of his weight on admission, present weight and periods of illness, if any, from the date of his conviction up to date ;

(*h*) the nature of work that has been given to the prisoner so far from the date of his conviction ;

(*i*) whether the prisoner was objected to by the jail authorities or any other officer of Government from corresponding with his relatives or friends, as the case may be, and if so, reasons thereof ;

(*j*) whether Government or any of its officer received any application from any friend or relative of the prisoner seeking permission to interview the prisoner ; and

(*k*) if the answer to (*j*) be in the affirmative, whether such permission was granted ; if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) The Penitentiary, Madras.

(*b*) The Penitentiary, Madras.
The Central Jail, Rajahmundry.
Information as regards the periods of detention in these jails has been called for.
The Central Jail, Montgomery, from the 25th May 1923 to 20th August 1924.
The Central Jail, Multan, from 21st August 1924.

(*c*) He was detained in the Central Jail, Rajahmundry, pending removal to another province as it was considered undesirable to retain him in one of the jails of this Presidency.

(*d*) From the Central Jail, Montgomery, to the Central Jail, Multan.

(*e*) The Central Jail, Multan.